AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method <u>to detect tampering with registry settings in a
computer,</u> comprising:

        generating <u>by an application program running in the computer</u> a user
identity value associated with a user identity<u> that is authorized to change
a system registry of the computer;</u>

        storing the user identity value;

        generating <u>by the application program</u> a registry security value associated
with a̶ <u>said</u> system registry;

        storing the registry security value; and

        authenticating <u>by the application program</u> the system registry after
reading the system registry, ~~wherein authenticating includes at least one
chosen from the group consisting of~~

            ~~generating a new user identity value associated with a user identity
and comparing the new user identity value to the stored user
identity value, and~~

        ~~obtaining an input responsive to a program attempting to access the
system registry, the input allowing processing to continue.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein generating a user
identity value associated with a user identity comprises inserting at least one of
the username and password in a one-way function to obtain the user identity
value associated with the user identity.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein generating a registry
security value associated with a system registry comprises:

        concatenating system registry information; and

        inserting the concatenated system registry information in a one-way
function to obtain the registry security value.

4.	(Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein concatenating system registry information comprises concatenating at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

5.	(Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry further comprises:
generating a new registry security value;
comparing the new registry security value with the stored registry security value; and
allowing processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value.

6.	(Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1 further comprising modifying the system registry in response to being provided the user identity value and the registry security value.

Claims 7-9 (canceled).

10.	(Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising
generating a user identity value associated with a user identity that is authorized to access a system registry of said machine;
storing the user identity value;
generating a registry security value associated with a the system registry;
storing the registry security value; and
generating a new user identity value associated with a new user identity seeking access to the system registry and comparing the new user identity value to the stored user identity value;
authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry, ; and
applying a one-way function to the system registry settings as changed by the new user identity to obtain a new registry security value and storing the new registry security value for a subsequent authentication of the system registry wherein authenticating includes at least one chosen

~~from the group consisting of~~

> > ~~generating a new user identity value associated with a user identity~~
> > > ~~and comparing the new user identity value to the stored user~~
> > > ~~identity value, and~~
> > ~~obtaining an input responsive to a program attempting to access the~~
> > > ~~system registry, the input allowing processing to continue.~~

11.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions generating a user identity value associated with a user identity comprises further instructions for inserting at least one of the user's username and password in a one-way function to obtain the user identity value associated with the user identity.

12.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions for generating a registry security value associated with a system registry comprises further instructions for
> concatenating system registry information; and
> inserting the concatenated system registry information in a one-way function to obtain the registry security value.

13.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 12, wherein instructions for concatenating system registry information comprises further instructions for concatenating at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

14.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions for authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry comprises further instructions for
> generating a new registry security value;
> comparing the new registry security value with the stored registry security value; and
> allowing processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value.

15. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 further comprising instructions for modifying the system registry in response to being provided the user identity value and the registry security value.

Claims 16-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a bus;
a data storage device coupled to said bus and that stores a plurality of instructions which implement an application program; and
a processor coupled to said data storage device, said processor operable to receive said instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to
generate a user identity value associated with a user identity that is authorized to change a system registry of said apparatus;
store the user identity value;
generate a registry security value associated with a-said system registry;
store the registry security value; and
authenticate the system registry after reading the system registry based on the stored registry security value, wherein the authentication includes at least one chosen from the group consisting of
generating a new user identity value associated with a user identity and comparing the new user identity value to the stored user identity value, and
obtaining an input responsive to a program attempting to access the system registry, the input allowing processing to continue.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the processor operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to generate a user identity value associated with a user identity comprises the processor to insert at least one of the

username and password in a one way function to obtain the user identity value.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the processor operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to

generate a registry security value associated with a system registry comprises the processor to concatenate system registry information; and

insert the concatenated system registry information in a function to obtain the registry security value.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the processor to concatenate system registry information comprises the processor to concatenate at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 19 wherein the processor operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to authenticate the system registry after reading the system registry further comprises the processor to

generate a new registry security value;

compare the new registry security value with the stored registry security value; and

allow processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 19 wherein the processor operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, further causes the processor to modify the system registry in response to being provided the user identity value and the registry security value.

Claims 25-28 (canceled).

29.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 ~~wherein instructions for authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry comprises~~ further comprising instructions for allowing processing to continue if the new user identity value is equal to the stored user identity value.

30.   Canceled.